

## MINORITY REPORT ON COST OF LIVING

Tariffs, Trusts, Combines, Monopolies and Increased Money Supply Given as Chief Causes.

### PAYNE-ALDRICH BILL SCORED

Result of Protection Is "Great Fortunes for the Few, Great Suffering for the Many."

Washington, Aug. 15.—The tariffs, trusts, combines, monopolies, and an increased money supply, are the substantial causes for the advance in prices in the United States, according to Senators Johnson of Alabama, Clarke of Arkansas and Smith of South Carolina, minority members of the select senate committee appointed during the last session of Congress to investigate and make a report on wages and the prices of commodities. The report was made public today.

Vigorous attack is made in the minority report on almost all the reasons given by the majority in its report submitted some time ago as to the causes for the advance in prices.

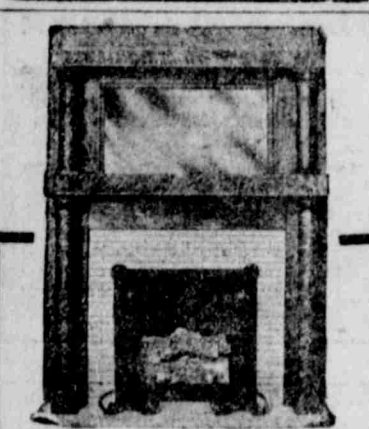
#### CHAMPAGNE AND WOOLENS.

After attacking one at a time the 15 principal causes which according to the majority report, contribute to the high cost of living, the minority report takes up the tariff, declaring that when the Payne-Aldrich bill was framed "Champagne was put on the schedule at from 54 to 66 per cent, while wearing apparel was taxed from 30 to 92 per cent—drinking champagne was to be encouraged, and wearing woollen clothes discouraged."

"So with hats," they said, "those bringing not over \$4.50 per dozen were

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taxed 77 per cent, and those valued at more than \$18 per dozen, 47 per cent. The result of protection, they declare, is "great fortunes for the few and great suffering for the many."

Showing the effect of the tariff on prices, they instance sugar, on which the New York consumer, they say, pays more than the London consumer, by the difference between the sugar tariffs in the two countries, plus 17 cents per 100 pounds.

"It is scarcely necessary," they add, "to mention the iniquitous woolen schedule—where the tariff rates are so high on these necessities of our people as practically to preclude any foreign competition with the American manufacturer, except on high priced goods purchased by the wealthier consumer who can, to some extent, disregard price."

Taking up the question of trusts, combinations and monopolies, they declare "that there are few trusts that could survive a revenue tariff. They flourish only under the shadow of high protective walls."

"The methods of the meat trust," they declare, "seem to be admirably adapted to taking from the consumer and the producer the larger amount that the tariff will bear. Their destruction of local competition cannot be improved upon."

As to what they call a "sample of the working of our combines," they say that "while everywhere else in the world the price of harvesting machinery has been appreciably reduced, since 1900 in the United States it has been materially increased. The increase started nearly contemporaneously with the Dingley tariff."

#### WAGES AND TARIFF

As to the wages, they say that "the fear that wages would fall if the tariff was removed and the fall of prices would not be clear gain to the consumer, is not warranted by the experience of Great Britain. Great Britain is a free trade nation, and it is the most prosperous nation in the world except our own. Shoals of emigrants from the tariff-ridden nations of France, Germany, Italy and Russia go to England for the work. But Englishmen do not emigrate to these countries because the standard of living is lower. The general testimony is that the rate of wages for all mechanical trades is substantially higher in Great Britain than in those countries, while the prices of necessities are lowered, leaving the Englishman a wider margin to live upon."

"It is about 60 years since Great Britain adopted free trade, and during that time, according to a table published in Whitaker's Almanac, wages have increased \$1.7 per cent and prices 3 per cent. It is therefore, well seen that the abolition of the tariff in England did not bring down the rate of wages. Neither would it in this country. If we remove the obstruction, allowing prices to sink to their natural level, the question of wages may be trusted to take care of itself."

Replying to the majority's statement in its report that an "increased demand for farm products" is a cause of advancing prices, the minority cites the wheat crop as having increased from less than seven bushels per capita in 1900 to more than eight in 1909; corn from 27 to 39 bushels per capita, and potatoes from almost three to more than four bushels. Notwithstanding the increase, in the price of farm products, the farmer, they say, "has received a small net return on his labor and investment by reason of the increased cost of articles necessary for him to purchase to carry on his business."

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## SPEAKER CANNON ON REORGANIZATION

Declares He Does Not Believe  
Prest. Taft Contemplates  
Any Such Action.

### EXPECTS TO BE RE-ELECTED

Says La Follette and Bristow Voted to Increase Tariff on Things They Were Interested In.

Chicago, Aug. 15.—The Inter-Ocean tomorrow morning will print an interview with Joseph G. Cannon, speaker of the house of representatives, in which he denounces insurgents, says he will be a candidate for the speakership of the next house and declares that reports of a contemplated reorganization of the Republican party originated with insurgents and Democrats.

Referring to the dispatches from Beverly, Mr. Cannon said:

"I don't believe Mr. Taft contemplates any such action. The president is not the kind of man to yield to every passing whim of a majority. The story that Senators Aldrich and Hale and myself were to be thrown out of the party will be found, when traced to its source, to have originated with some of the insurgents' Democrat allies, whose wishes are father to the thought."

#### EXPECTS TO BE RE-ELECTED.

"I expect to be re-elected to Congress by an overwhelming majority, and then I will be a candidate for speaker, but always subject to the will of the people. If I am beaten in the caucus, which I believe is remote, I will willingly take my place in the ranks."

Answering the question, "Will you be a candidate for re-election as speaker for the next house?" Mr. Cannon made this statement:

"I have been asked that question frequently, and especially by our Democratic friends and their practical allies—the followers of La Follette and Cummings. I have answered it but so far the answer as I gave it has never been published by our friends, the enemy."

"I am speaker of the house, elected by a Republican majority four times. I have been in harmony with, and have to the best of my ability, co-operated with the Republican majority in the legislation that has been enacted for the last seven years, during the administration of Theodore Roosevelt and William H. Taft."

"I know of no reason, personal or political, that would prevent my being speaker again if a majority of the house of representatives should desire. Under these conditions, pending a campaign, I could not upon demand of the enemy, pledge that in the event of my re-election to Congress I would not be a candidate for speaker, without acknowledging that the record of the house during the last seven years is subject to criticism and that the Republican majority with which I have co-operated in the enactment of legislation is subject to just criticism."

"This I will not do, because I believe that the record of the party for the last seven years should be indorsed and not condemned."

"No Republican representative in the next Congress will be elected speaker unless there is a majority of real Republicans in the house that will unite in a caucus touching the organization of the house and abide by the action of the caucus in the election of the speaker and other officers."

#### AS TO THE INSURGENTS.

Mr. Cannon then devoted his attention to the insurgents.

"The senators and representatives who call themselves 'insurgents' and who voted against the enactment of the Payne bill voted to increase or maintain the duties on the industries and productions of their own states and sections," he declared. "They were protectionists for their own people, but were opposed to protection for other people in other sections."

"Senator La Follette did not vote to increase the duties on lead and zinc, but he defended the finance committee schedules on those products in speeches, saying they were not high enough, explaining, however, that he could not vote on the question because he said he had a personal pecuniary interest in the outcome."

"Senators La Follette and Bristow and other so-called 'insurgents' voted to increase the duty on barley and barley malt for the reason that their constituents produce barley. In other words, these gentlemen who call themselves 'insurgents' voted with the Republicans on schedules that protected the products of their constituents and with the Democrats on schedules that protected the production of other sections of the country."

### GERMANY GAINS LAP IN NAVAL SUPREMACY RACE

Berlin, Aug. 15.—The government naval bill to be laid before the reichstag this autumn will ask for an appropriation to build three battleships and one battleship cruiser, according to an article published today by Count Reventlow, the German naval expert and naval editor of the Deutsche Tages Zeitung.

Included with these four super-dreadnoughts will be appropriations to replace the two old battleships Wiesenburg and Kurfuerst Friedrich Wilhelm, just sold to Turkey, which, under the regular naval program, would not be asked for before the autumn of 1911.

Germany will thereby gain a lap in the race with England for supremacy in dreadnought construction having two of the latest developed types of modern battleships laid down and consequently constructed one year sooner than the original published program contemplated.

The German naval budget for this year also will authorize the construction of two small cruisers to replace the See Adler and Gefion and six torpedo boats and will contain an appropriation of \$3,750,000 for submarine boats.

#### GERONIMO GONZALES KILLED.

Laredo, Tex., Aug. 15.—Geronimo Gonzales, a noted frontier character, known some years ago as a bandit, but later serving as a deputy sheriff of Webb county, Tex., was shot and instantly killed on the outskirts of Nuevo Laredo yesterday. Gonzales had disarmed one policeman and stabbed another, when a third opened fire with fatal results.

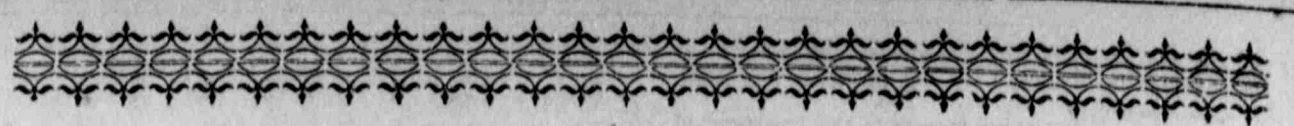
#### ESTRADA WANTS PEACE.

New Orleans, Aug. 15.—That Gen. Juan Estrada and Emiliano Chamorro had left for the neighborhood of Managua to carry on peace negotiations with President Madriz, was the news received in dispatches early tonight from Bluefields, Nicaragua.

These dispatches are largely borne out by the Bluefields American, the insurgents' organ, copies of which were received tonight. According to the American, peace will soon reign.

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# The CENSUS OF 1910

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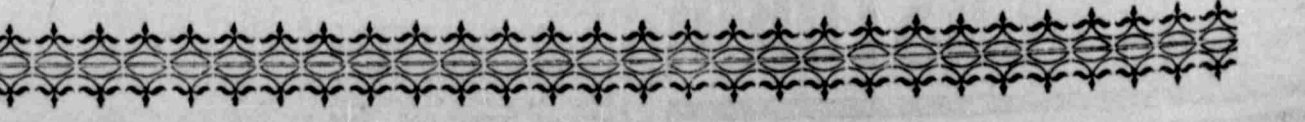
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